General Assembly

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Agenda item 95 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/558/Add.1)*]

56/180. Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of its resolutions 44/214 of 22 December 1989, 46/212 of 20 December 1991, 48/169 of 21 December 1993, 50/97 of 20 December 1995, 52/183 of 18 December 1997 and 54/199 of 22 December 1999 and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community,[1] as well as the relevant parts of the Agenda for Development,[2]

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] in which heads of State and Government recognized the particular needs and problems of the landlocked developing countries and urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their particular development needs and to help them to overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems, and resolved to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, that is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty,

Recognizing that the lack of territorial access to the sea, aggravated by remoteness and isolation from world markets, and prohibitive transit costs and risks impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development efforts of the landlocked developing countries,

Recognizing also that sixteen of the landlocked developing countries are also classified by the United Nations as least developed countries and that their geographical situation is an added constraint on their overall ability to cope with the challenges of development,

Recognizing further that most transit countries are themselves developing countries facing serious economic problems, including the lack of adequate infrastructure in the transport sector,

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[1] TD/B/42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.

[2] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

Noting the importance of continuing to strengthen the existing international support measures with a view to addressing further the problems of landlocked developing countries,

Emphasizing the importance of further strengthening effective and close cooperation and collaboration between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours, at regional, subregional and bilateral levels, inter alia, through cooperative arrangements in developing efficient transit transport systems in landlocked and transit developing countries, and noting the important role of the activities of the regional commissions in that regard,

Welcoming the holding in New York from 30 July to 3 August 2001 of the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to donor countries for participating in the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts and for the generous contribution that facilitated the participation of experts from landlocked and transit developing countries,

Taking note of the Vientiane Plan of Action[4] on measures designed to improve the transit transport systems of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, adopted at the first Specific Consultative Meeting on the Transit Transport Systems of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, held at Vientiane on 14 and 15 December 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Noting the outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 13 November 2001,[5]

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries;[6]

2. *Welcomes* the agreed conclusions and recommendations for future action adopted by the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions;[7]

3. *Reaffirms* the right of access of landlocked countries to and from the sea and freedom of transit through the territory of transit countries by all means of transport, as set forth in article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[8]

4. *Also reaffirms* that transit countries, in the exercise of their full sovereignty over their territory, have the right to take all measures necessary to ensure that the rights and facilities provided for landlocked countries, including landlocked developing countries, in no way infringe upon their legitimate interests;

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[4] UNCTAD/LDC/Misc.53, annex I.

[5] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[6] A/56/427.

[7] Ibid., sect. II.

[8] See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10).

5. *Calls upon* the landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours to implement measures to strengthen further their cooperative and collaborative efforts to deal with transit transport issues, including bilateral and, as appropriate, subregional cooperation, inter alia, by improving the physical infrastructure and non-physical aspects of transit transport systems, strengthening and concluding, where appropriate, bilateral and subregional agreements to govern transit transport operations, developing joint ventures in the area of transit transport and strengthening institutions and human resources dealing with transit transport, and, in this respect, notes that South-South cooperation also plays an important role in this field;

6. *Appeals once again* to all States, international organizations and financial institutions to implement, as a matter of urgency and priority, the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries agreed upon in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the outcomes of recent major United Nations conferences relevant to landlocked developing countries and the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community[1] and to take fully into account the agreed conclusions and recommendations of the fifth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions;

7. *Expresses its appreciation* for the financial and technical assistance made available by some donors to landlocked and transit developing countries in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications;

8. *Invites* donor countries, the United Nations Development Programme and multilateral financial and development institutions to provide landlocked and transit developing countries with appropriate financial and technical assistance in the form of grants or concessional loans for the construction, maintenance and improvement of their transport, storage and other transit-related facilities, including alternative routes and improved communications, to promote subregional, regional and interregional projects and programmes, and, in this regard, to consider, inter alia, improving the availability and optimal use of different transport modes and intermodal efficiency along transport corridors;

9. *Emphasizes* that assistance for the improvement of transit transport facilities and services should be integrated into the overall economic development strategies of the landlocked and transit developing countries and that donor countries should consequently take into account the requirements for the long-term restructuring of the economies of the landlocked developing countries;

10. *Notes* the important role that the simplification, harmonization and standardization of transit procedures and documentation as well as the application of information technologies have played in enhancing the efficiency of transit systems, and calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to assist landlocked and transit developing countries in those areas, in accordance with their mandates;

11. *Invites* those countries that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to international agreements and conventions related to transit trade and transport, and invites landlocked and transit countries to consider concluding

bilateral or subregional intergovernmental agreements regarding various aspects of transit transport;

12. *Invites* the international community to continue to provide technical and financial support to landlocked and transit developing countries to assist with effective implementation of their cooperation agreements and arrangements on transit transport, taking into account the fact that many landlocked and transit developing countries have concluded bilateral and regional arrangements and are making efforts to implement them;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene in 2003 an International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, within the existing resources of the budget for the biennium 2002–2003 and with voluntary contributions, to review the current situation of transit transport systems, including the implementation of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation of 1995, and to formulate, inter alia, appropriate policy measures and action-oriented programmes aimed at developing efficient transit transport systems, which would be held for two days and would be preceded by a three-day meeting of senior officials to finalize the substantive preparations;

14. *Invites* Member States, members of the specialized agencies and United Nations observers, including landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries, and international financial and development institutions, including relevant regional and subregional economic organizations and commissions, to participate in the International Ministerial Meeting and its preparatory process;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with and with the full involvement of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate, to provide substantive and organizational support, within the existing resources of the budget for the biennium 2002–2003 and with voluntary contributions, for the International Ministerial Meeting, and requests that, in this context, the necessary preparations be undertaken at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate, with the involvement of all major stakeholders, including the private sector;

16. *Decides* to consider the precise timing and venue of the International Ministerial Meeting at its fifty-seventh session, taking into consideration the generous offer made by the Government of Kazakhstan to host the meeting;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene in 2003, prior to the International Ministerial Meeting and within the existing resources for the biennium 2002–2003, the sixth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, including relevant regional and subregional economic organizations and commissions, and decides that that meeting shall serve as a preparatory committee for the International Ministerial Meeting, in both substantive and organizational aspects;

18. *Also requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in close cooperation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate, to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the preparations for the International Ministerial Meeting, including the participation of representatives of landlocked and transit developing countries at the meeting;

19. *Notes with appreciation* the contribution of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to formulating international policies and

measures dealing with the particular problems of landlocked developing countries, inter alia, through technical cooperation programmes, and urges the Conference, inter alia, to keep under constant review the evolution of transit transport infrastructure facilities, institutions and services, to monitor the implementation of agreed measures, inter alia, by means of a case study as necessary, to promote regional and subregional cooperation, to build consensus on cooperative arrangements, to mobilize international support measures, to collaborate in all relevant initiatives, including those of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, and to serve as a focal point for cross-regional issues of landlocked developing countries;

20. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate, to take appropriate measures, within the existing resources of the budget for the biennium 2002–2003 and with voluntary contributions, for the effective implementation of the activities called for in the present resolution, and to provide the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Island Developing Countries of the Conference with adequate resources so as to allow it to continue to support landlocked developing countries, to the extent of its mandate, including in the effective preparations for the International Ministerial Meeting;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to submit it to the Trade and Development Board and to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", a sub-item entitled "Preparations for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation";

23. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", a sub-item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries".

90th plenary meeting
21 December 2001